

CAMP EDWARDS, T-1242  
(ENLISTED MENS' MESS)

Camp Edwards  
Bourne vicinity  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS NO. MA-1249-F

HABS

MASS.

1 - BOURNE,

1 - F -

PHOTOGRAPHS AND

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### CAMP EDWARDS, BUILDING T-1242 (ENLISTED MEN'S MESS - 170 MAN)

HABS NO. MA-1290-F

1249-F

Location: Building T-1242 is located approximately 150' due north of South Inner road in Block 12 within the south quarter of the Camp Edwards square cantonment, in Barnstable County, Bourne vicinity, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup>

U.S.G.S. Special Map, series V814SCPEDWARDS, Massachusetts, (1200-1300 Blocks) Zone 19, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: SW corner - 370440E 4612520N, NW corner -370580E 4612880N, NE corner -370880E 4612700N, SE corner -370740E 4612360N.

Present Owner: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, leased to Department of the Army and Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Original Use: Enlisted Men's Mess - 170 man.

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building T-1242 is significant as a relatively unmodified representative of a 700 Series Enlisted Men's Mess.<sup>2</sup> It represents one of 143 170-man mess halls constructed as part of the original 1940 Camp Edwards cantonment. The structure is one of 112 remaining World War II structures in the 1200-1300 blocks of the cantonment.<sup>3</sup>

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

#### A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Construction of Building T-1242 was begun at the same time as the entire Camp Edwards World War II cantonment. Construction at Camp Edwards began on September 12, 1940, and all essential facilities were completed by December 1, 1940.<sup>4</sup>
2. Architect: Col. Charles D. Hartman (later Brigadier General), Quartermaster Corps, U.S. Army, supervised the production and revision of the 1940, 700 Series plans that were used in the construction of Building T-1242.<sup>5</sup> The Constructing Quartermasters at Camp Edwards during the construction of Building T-1242 were Maj. Harold L. Algeo, (C.E. Res.), Sept. 11 to Nov. 12, 1940; Capt. Carl M. Patee (QMC), Nov. 11 to Jan. 30, 1941; and Capt. Fred E. Robbins (Inf. Res.), Jan. 30, 1941, to completion.<sup>6</sup> The plans were used and modified at Camp Edwards by the architectural-engineering firm of Charles T. Main Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts.<sup>7</sup>

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3. Original and subsequent owners: In 1935, the Massachusetts State Legislature established the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod as a training area for the National Guard. The Department of the Army entered a ninety-nine year lease with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and developed the camp into a division training area in 1940. In 1953, a portion of the camp was transferred to the Department of the Air Force for construction and maintenance of an airfield designated Otis Air Force Base. From 1954-74, Camp Edwards continued to function under the U.S. Army as a reserve training center under a permit from the U.S. Air Force. In 1973, base closures caused the Air Force to transfer Otis Air Force Base to the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The U.S. Coast Guard was issued a lease for portions of the installations, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1976. In 1979, the U.S. Army licensed its area at Camp Edwards to the Massachusetts Army National Guard. The World War II temporary structures under consideration in this report are presently under the control of the U.S. Army and the Massachusetts Army National Guard.<sup>8</sup>
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Building T-1242 was part of Block 12 of the Camp Edwards cantonment. The Walsh Construction Company of Davenport, Iowa was the builder/contractor. The contracts for the principal construction areas were fixed-fee. Cost estimates were prepared which itemized costs for each structure type complete with utilities and the contractors' fees.<sup>9</sup> The War Department purchased the lumber used in Building T-1242 using a bid system. The lumber was inspected independently by the Lumber Inspection Bureau Incorporated. Concrete was purchased from the Crystal Concrete Company of Braintree, Massachusetts and the F.V. Lawrence Plant in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Test engineers were employed through the firm of Thompson and Litchfield Company of Boston.<sup>10</sup> Information on individual suppliers of other materials was not available. These were probably purchased from subcontractors in the area.
5. Original Plans and Construction: Building T-1242 was built from 700 Series plan number 700-1116 (Plans) and associated plan numbers 700-1128 (Elevations and Sections), 700-1129 (Miscellaneous Details), 700-1125 (Smoke Pipe and Heating Details), 700-1127 (Floor and Framing Plans), and 700-1118 (Miscellaneous Details). The original plan, Drawing 700-1116, used to construct Building T-1242 is currently on file in the Facilities Engineers Office at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. The original cost of the building was estimated at \$6439.19.<sup>11</sup> Noted alterations to the original building plan at the time of construction include the use of 8"-round concrete piers instead of 8"-square foundation piers as specified in the 700 Series plans.
6. Alterations and additions: None noted.

B. Historical Context:

The construction of Building T-1242 was part of a massive, nation-wide mobilization program designed to build cantonments to house and train the expanded World War II Army. The 700 Series, and the 800 Series that followed, was a comprehensive set of

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drawings which could be used interchangeably in creating the various building types. Through the construction of temporary wood-frame buildings such as T-1242, the 1939 housing capacity of 200,000 was increased to 6,000,000 by the close of the mobilization program in the fall of 1944. Camp Edwards was the first of the mobilization camps constructed. The plans were so successful that fifty sets of duplicate prints were commissioned for use by other camp builders.<sup>12</sup> In addition, war mobilization buildings are significant for their construction and technological innovation. Techniques such as the standardization of plans, prefabrication of units and assembly-line approach to construction were largely developed in the construction of these mobilization structures.

Building T-1242 is a 700 Series Officers' Mess constructed in the main cantonment area of Camp Edwards mobilization cantonment built by the War Department in the fall and winter of 1940. Mobilization cantonments were constructed to house and serve as training bases for approximately 525,000 men drafted for Army service after the declaration of war.

The post was named in honor of Major General Clarence Edwards, World War I commander of the 26th Infantry Division. The camp was leased by the Department of the Army in 1940 and developed into a division training area. It was here that the famous "Yankee Division" 26th Infantry was first assembled and trained for overseas duty in Europe and the South Pacific.

When fully occupied, over 30,000 people lived in the cantonment area. The main cantonment area was organized as a square with a total of twenty-nine regimental blocks for infantry and artillery regiments. Outside the main cantonment additional blocks were constructed for the hospital, logistics, quartermaster depots, "colored" infantry, and service commands.

In its basically unaltered condition Building T-1242 illustrates the setting in which the basic infantry unit lived and trained before transfer to the combat arena. The large open bay area, the unfinished flooring and walls, and the purely functional, ventilation, electrical systems all illustrate the utilitarian function of this structure made necessary by the massive nationwide mobilization effort.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Building T-1242 is a relatively unaltered example of typical 700 Series, Enlisted Men's Mess. The structure was built according to standard War Department 700 Series plans and is an example of World War II mobilization construction. This building served as a prototype for plans used nation wide. Built according to standard War Department 700 Series plans, Camp Edwards was the first of the mobilization camps constructed. Moreover, the project was so successful that fifty sets of duplicate prints were commissioned for use by other camp builders.<sup>13</sup>

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2. Condition of Fabric: The general condition of Building T-1242 is poor. The structural members are in good condition, however the door jambs and window sills show extensive rotting. The flooring is serviceable, the exterior sheathing is not maintained and shows damage from weathering and high winds. Windows are broken and the rear stoop to the dining area has been removed. Raccoons have littered the food preparation area and bird droppings are present throughout the structure. The roof was recently shingled and appears in good condition. The flooring along the service line shows wear patterns from heavy traffic. The original exterior cream paint and gray trim are peeling.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Building T-1242 is a rectangular building with four entries. The main structure measures 25'-4" wide x 87'-2" long.<sup>14</sup>
2. Foundations: Building T-1242 rests on a system of round concrete piers with stove pipe. The hearth in the kitchen rests on a concrete slab on grade. The structure has copper termite shields with wooden hoods between the foundation skirting and siding.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of Building T-1242 consist of three layers: wooden sheathing, black construction paper, and wooden cove base exterior siding, the standard system used throughout the cantonment. The exterior has wooden skirting covered with bituminous fabric.
4. Structural System, framing: Building T-1242, and all 700 Series mobilization structures at the cantonment, are of light frame construction. The structure has a straight gable roof and no skirt roof (aqua medias). The structure differs from T-1240 in the absence of skirt roofs, types and position of doorways, the interior circulation pattern of the dining area, a larger concrete cooking surface in the kitchen, and window placement in the kitchen.
5. Porches, stoops: The original stoops at all entries have been replaced by concrete planks 11" wide x 4" thick x 5' long.
6. Chimneys: The structure does not have a chimney.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and Doors: The design of all doors at Building T-1242 is similar, consisting of standard-design four lights over three recessed wooden panels. Three entries are present, one double-door entry for kitchen personnel and supplies and three single-door entries. Two of the single doors are transversely located on the north and south walls and directly access the service area. Wooden screens are present on both entrances.

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- b. Windows: On the west wall there are two, six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows. On the east (kitchen) wall there are three, fixed nine-light windows. On the north, there are eleven, six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows. On the south, there are nine, six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Building T-1242 is covered by a gabled roof with a slope of 5 to 12. Roofing materials consist of 3-tab asphalt roofing shingles with gray aggregate laid on 1" thick sheathing supported by 2" inch x 8" rafters at 2'-0" on center.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Basement: The basement under Building T-1242 consist of a crawl space.
  - b. Main Floor: Building T-1242, as constructed in 1940 had a gross area of 2,208 square feet. The main floor consists of a single bay containing the main dining area, and food preparation areas separated by a partition wall. The flooring in the food preparation and washing areas and the food service line show wear patterns from heavy traffic.
  - c. Attic: None; the entire volume of the mess hall is open to the roof line.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: The flooring in the dining area consists of tongue-and-groove wood. A concrete pad is present in the kitchen area. The pad has a 7 1/2" floor drain and a 9" square perforated cover. Remnants of red sheet linoleum are present in the kitchen area.
4. Wall and Ceiling finishes: The ceiling and walls are unfinished and painted white and green. In the kitchen area there are 7" pine, tongue and groove boards behind the stove area. Remnants of the original fiberboard finish are present in the kitchen cooking area.
5. Openings: There is one major opening between the dining and food-preparation areas in the form of a counter with a skirt suspended from the ceiling. There is one interior door in the structure accessing a storage room in the kitchen.
6. Decorative Trim: Due to the austere nature of the construction effort there was no decorative trim.

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7. Hardware: The original knob and lock sets in the doors and window dead bolt locks are present. The doors have butt hinges with three screws in each plate. Unidentified hardware hangers were observed attached to the windows and may represent holders for blackout shades.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
  - a. Heating: A single stove pad is present in the dining area. The ceiling vent for the stove has been removed and covered.
  - b. Kitchen appliances: The kitchen has a Gordon Separator made by the American Sink and Foundry Company (Model US-242 Racine, Wisconsin), a hot-water heater made by J.A. Zurn Manufacture Company, two slop sinks, two sinks with two faucets each made by Onis & Laughlin Steel Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a galvanized steel hood over the hot water heater painted olive drab.
  - c. Ventilation: The structure is vented through wooden attic vents in the eaves. New kitchen ventilation hoods and louvers were installed in all of the mess halls in 1942.<sup>15</sup>
  - d. Lighting: The original pendulum luminaires with porcelain enameled (green and white) reflectors are present throughout the structure.
  - e. Plumbing: A floor drain is present in the kitchen area. The soil stack and drain from the slop sink are also present. Original sinks are in place. A faucet is located on the outside of the south wall. The water system was shut off at the time of inspection.
9. Original Furnishings: There is unfinished pine shelving and a baker's pantry in the store room.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and orientation: Building T-1242 and the other buildings of Block 12 are located within the south quarter of the Camp Edwards square cantonment area. The building is located within a complex also containing additional barracks, day rooms, mess halls and administrative structures.<sup>16</sup>
2. Historical Landscape Design: Asphalt walkways cover a rectilinear path surrounding structure. The remainder of the building lot is relatively flat and planted in grasses. A sloped concrete pad and exterior faucet is located along the north elevation and was probably used as a washing area for trash cans.

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PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- A. Architectural Drawings: Building T-1242 was built from 700 Series plan number 700-1116, and supplemented with associated plan numbers 700-1128 (Elevations and Sections), 700-1129 (Miscellaneous Details), 700-1125 (Smoke Pipe and Heating Details), 700-1127 (Floor and Framing Plans), and 700-1118 (Miscellaneous Details). The original plan, Drawing 700-1116, used to construct Building T-1242 is currently on file in the Facilities Engineers Office at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. Duplicates of the 700 Series plans for Enlisted Men's Mess Halls are currently on file at the United States Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (USA-CERL).
- B. Early Views: No construction photographs of Building T-1242 were located. Historical photographic view of Camp Edwards including construction photographs were located at the Office of History, Fort Belvoir, VA.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Standard Mobilization Drawings 700 Series Plan number 700-1116, 700-1128, 700-1129,, 700-1125, 700-1127 and 700-1118.

Real Property Records. Building and Structures, Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

Base Layout Plan, Otis Air National Guard, Camp Edwards, U.S. Coast Guard, Scale 1:400, revised January 1983, Camp Edwards Facilities Engineers Office.

Report on the Activities of the Construction Division. War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, July 1, 1940 to November 1, 1941, p.148-149. Manuscript on file Office of the Corps of Engineers, Engineer Historical Division, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Architect-Engineer's Report on Camp Edwards, Falmouth, Massachusetts. June 4, 1941. Charles T. Main Inc. Engineers. Manuscript on file, Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

Camp Edwards Military Reservation, Bourne, Massachusetts. Master Plan, January 1984, Revised February 1985. Massachusetts Army National Guard, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Boston, Massachusetts.

Camp Edwards, Falmouth Massachusetts, Walsh Construction Co., General Contractors. Estimated Cost As Of September 5, 1940 For Enlisted Men's Mess Hall. Drawing No. 1116, from Construction Costs Report, on file Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

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Letter dated August 13, 1956, from D.G. Aronberg of the Walsh Construction Company to Mr. August G. Sperl concerning a review of Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington's, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States. United States Army in World War II, The Technical Services.* Center of Military History. Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C. (1972)

"New Ventilation Units for Edwards Kitchens." Camp Edwards Digest - Friday May 29, 1942, p.8, col 1. Vol.2, No. 5.

2. Secondary and Published sources:

Lenoir Fine and Jesse Remington. *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States.* United States Army in World War II, The Technical Services. Center of Military History. Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1972.

K. Alan Snyder. *A Guide to Archival Sources for the Study of World War II Temporary Buildings.* Office of the Corps of Engineers, History Division, Washington, D.C., 1988.

Diane Wasch and Perry Bush. "The Historical Context of World War II Mobilization Construction." Unpublished paper, National Park Service Historic American Buildings Survey, Washington, DC., 1989.

D. Likely Sources Not Investigated:

1. Documentary: Additional information on the firms of Charles T. Main (architect engineers) and the Walsh Construction Company (contractors) may be available. Additional data may be available in the National Archives on Col. Charles D. Hartman (Later Brigadier General) and his staff who produced and revised the 700 Series standard drawings.
2. Oral History: Interviews could be conducted with personnel involved in the construction at Camp Edwards and the military records and local area could be searched for civilian and military personnel who may have worked at the installation.

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and Steve Turner  
United States Army Construction Engineering Research  
Laboratory  
August 1990

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION:

The documentation of Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, was undertaken as mitigation documentation by the United States Army, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (USACERL), Champaign, Illinois. The documentation was done to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, the National Park Service. The research was undertaken by Keith Landreth, Daniel R. Lapp, James Bowman, and Steve Turner of USACERL on site at Camp Edwards during the summer of 1990. The large-format photography was done by Martin Stupich.

NOTES:

1. Base Layout Plan, Otis Air National Guard, Camp Edwards, U.S. Coast Guard, Scale 1:400, revised January 1983, Camp Edwards Facilities Engineers Office.
2. Camp Edwards, Falmouth Massachusetts, Walsh Construction Co., General Contractors. Estimated Cost As Of September 5, 1940 For Enlisted Mens Mess. Drawing No. 1116. p. 36. from Construction Costs Report, on file Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.
3. Report on the Activities of the Construction Division. War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, July 1, 1940 to November 1, 1941, p.148-149. Manuscript on file Office of the Corps of Engineers, Engineer Historical Division, Fort Belvoir, VA.
4. Report on the Activities of the Construction Division. War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, July 1, 1940 to November 1, 1941, p.148-149. Manuscript on file Office of the Corps of Engineers, Engineer Historical Division, Fort Belvoir, VA.
5. Lenoir Fine and Jesse Remington. *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. United States Army in World War II, The Technical Services. Center of Military History. Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C. (1972) p. 69.
6. Architect-Engineer's Report on Camp Edwards, Falmouth, Massachusetts. June 4, 1941. Charles T. Main Inc. Engineers.  
p. 7. Manuscript on file, Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.
7. Report on the Activities of the Construction Division. War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, July 1, 1940 to November 1, 1941, p.148-149. Manuscript on file Office of the Corps of Engineers, Engineer Historical Division, Fort Belvoir, VA.
8. Camp Edwards Military Reservation, Bourne, Massachusetts. Master Plan, January 1984, Revised February 1985. Massachusetts Army National Guard, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Boston, Massachusetts.
9. Architect-Engineer's Report on Camp Edwards, Falmouth, Massachusetts. June 4, 1941. Charles T. Main Inc. Engineers. Manuscript on file, Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. p.6
10. Ibid. pp. 83, 90.
11. Camp Edwards, Falmouth Massachusetts, Walsh Construction Co., General Contractors. Estimated Cost As Of September 5, 1940 For Enlisted Mens Mess Drawing No. 1116. from Construction Costs Report, on file Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

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12. Letter dated August 13, 1956 from D.G. Aronberg of the Walsh Construction Company to Mr. August G. Sperl concerning a review of Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington's, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. United States Army in World War II, The Technical Services. Center of Military History. Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C. (1972).

13. Letter dated August 13, 1956 from D.G. Aronberg of the Walsh Construction Company to Mr. August G. Sperl concerning a review of Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington's, Architect-Engineer's Report on Camp Edwards, Falmouth, Massachusetts. June 4, 1941 Charles T. Main Inc. Engineers. Manuscript on file, Facilities Engineers Building, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

14. From "Standard 700-Series Drawing 1116."

15. "New Ventilation Units for Edwards Kitchens". Camp Edwards Digest - Friday May 29, 1942, p.8, col 1. Vol.2, No. 5.

16. Base Layout Plan, Otis Air National Guard, Camp Edwards, U.S. Coast Guard, Scale 1:400, revised January 1983, Camp Edwards Facilities Engineers Office.